

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2005-270-G - ORDER NO. 2005-725
DECEMBER 16, 2005

IN RE: Request for Investigation to Determine Whether a Regulation Should be Promulgated Requiring Relocation of Certain Meter Sets or Installation of Splash Guards on These Meter Sets.) ORDER GRANTING) PATRIOTS ENERGY) GROUP'S PETITION TO) INTERVENE OUT OF) TIME
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This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) by way of a Petition to Intervene Out of Time (Petition) in the above-captioned proceeding from Patriots Energy Group (PEG). The present proceeding before the Commission was established upon the request that the Commission determine whether a regulation should be promulgated requiring relocation of certain meter sets or installation of splash guards on these meter sets.

Upon establishment of this docket, the Commission's Docketing Department prepared and published a Notice of Public Hearing regarding this docket in newspapers of general circulation in South Carolina. The purpose of the Notice was to inform interested parties of the present proceeding before the Commission and of the manner and time in which to file the appropriate pleadings for participation in the proceeding. Additionally, the Notice provided the date and time for which a hearing on this matter had been scheduled. In the present case, pleadings for participation in this docket were to be filed on or before November 22, 2005. The hearing on this matter was scheduled for January 19, 2006.

On November 30, 2005, which was after the return date established by the Notice, PEG filed a Petition to Intervene Out of Time by which PEG seeks to intervene in the proceeding with full rights to participate as a party of record. PEG states that it only recently realized that PEG has an interest in this matter and believes that its intervention will not prejudice any other party.

As a joint action agency to separately and/or jointly deliver and/or supply natural gas to residential, industrial and other customers located in Chester, Union, Lancaster, Kershaw, York and Cherokee Counties, PEG asserts that it has a direct and material interest in the issues to be addressed and resolved by the Commission in this docket. According to PEG, granting PEG's intervention is in the public interest, is consistent with the policies of the Commission in encouraging maximum public participation in issues before the Commission, and should be allowed so that a full and complete record addressing PEG's views and concerns can be developed.

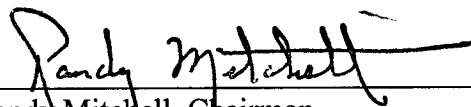
Upon consideration of this matter, the Commission finds and concludes that the Petition of PEG to intervene out of time should be granted. The Commission discerns no prejudice to any party by granting PEG's Petition.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. Patriots Energy Groups's Petition to Intervene Out of Time is granted.


2. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



Randy Mitchell, Chairman

ATTEST:



G. O'Neal Hamilton, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)